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No. 54

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 16, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit upon them, giving them the gifts of patience and diligence. With all the pressures for action that cry out each day and with all the concern and worry that accompanies any responsibility, we pray that they might know Your peace, which surpasses all human understanding.

May Your voice speak to them in the depths of their hearts, illuminating their minds and spirits, thus enabling them to view the tasks of this day with confidence and hope. All this day and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as I traveled across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina over the last constituent workweek, I became increasingly aware of a growing relationship between the Savannah River National Laboratory and one of their regional research universities, the University of South Carolina.

These two entities are working together to address key national energy needs in nuclear, hydrogen, fuel cells, environmental science, advanced sensors, modular nuclear reactors, and alternative energy, in addition to other areas of great national interest. The two institutions anticipate the future formation of a joint technology commercialization initiative involving the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina to build new technology-based businesses and create jobs.

I look forward to these joint collaborations with the Savannah River National Laboratory, and I am confident their success will be of great benefit to South Carolina and our Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Rest in peace, Medal of Honor recipient Army Master Sergeant John F. Baker, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, and Rock Island, Illinois, for his heroic service in Vietnam, who was buried at Arlington National Cemetery today.

URGING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless this Congress acts, in 75 days, the interest rate for the Stafford student loan program will explode for 8 million college students. Unless Congress acts, the rate will jump from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. At a time when student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt, added interest costs for a student using Stafford will increase between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

It is unconscionable that the Republican leadership will not bring up H.R. 3826, a bill I've introduced with 119 cosponsors to lock in the lower rate. Incredibly, the chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education spoke last week in North Carolina and said: I have very little tolerance for people who tell me they graduate with \$200,000 of debt or even \$80,000 of debt.

Really? It is a sad statement when today's Republican Party turns its back on a program that helps millions of Americans fulfill their dreams and that is named after Republican Senator Robert Stafford of Vermont.

Stop the rate hike. Bring up H.R. 3826 for a vote, and keep the American

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H1813

Dream alive for millions of college students.

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

(Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last week, the North Korean regime sent a clear message of defiance to the world community. Rather than work toward a peaceful agreement, North Korea would prefer its people starve in order to pursue its nuclear ambitions. The failure of the long-range missile test undermines the credibility of the North's new leadership and requires the United States to stand firm in support of stronger penalties.

North Korea has one ally in the region that has the power to force them to negotiate in good faith. It's time China stepped up and realized that its economic success is dependent on peace in the region and around the world. With China's rise comes responsibility. I encourage China to use this opportunity to force the North Korean regime to abandon its nuclear missile program and support the welfare of its people; and I encourage the United States to continue a strong posture, peace through strength, in the hopes that someday strength makes war obsolete.

STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have long aspired to a relationship at the U.S.-Mexican border like the one that the United States of America has with Canada. And I know that raises some red flags, but the fact of the matter is three things need to be done: We need to have economies of scale, an end to illegal immigration, and an end to narco-trafficking.

One of the things that is essential is economic growth in Mexico, and many people have constantly talked about the fact that we have nothing but rich and poor. And while that disparity still exists, there's a very important study, and I just got this from Arturo Sarukhan, the great Mexican Ambassador to the United States, entitled, "Mexico: A Middle Class Society, Poor No More, Developed Not Yet," by two academics, Luis de la Calle and Luis Rubio.

Mr. Speaker, in this document—and I commend it to my colleagues; I suspect it's been sent to a number of them—they talk about the fact that we have seen the middle class in Mexico emerge dramatically within the last half century. The study points to the fact that in 1960, a majority of Mexicans lived in one-room homes. Today, a majority of

Mexicans lives in homes with three rooms or larger.

If you look at the other tremendous indications, the fact that there is a burgeoning middle class in Mexico is a positive sign towards dealing with the challenges that we have.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend this document to my colleagues.

NATIONAL MEDIA IS NOT MAINSTREAM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today's so-called "mainstream" media is not mainstream. The modern encyclopedia, Wikipedia, says, "The term 'mainstream' media denotes those media generally reflective of the prevailing currents of thought, influence, or activity." But the opinions expressed by the media are neither widespread nor accepted by the majority of Americans.

For example, journalists and the public have very different views regarding illegal immigration. According to a Pew Research Center poll, less than one in five journalists said they thought "reducing illegal immigration" was a "top priority." Yet over half the American people rate illegal immigration reduction as a "top priority."

The national media should not be considered "mainstream" until the majority of Americans and journalists are on the same page. The bias of the national media's journalists has caused them not only to be on a different page but also to be in an entirely different publication than the typical American. To call today's national media "mainstream" is simply inaccurate. The national media is better described as the "liberal" national media.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3001) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Raoul Wallenberg was born in Europe on August 4, 1912, to Swedish Christian parents.

(2) In 1935, he graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, completing a five-year program in three-and-a-half years.

(3) In a letter to his grandfather, Wallenberg wrote of his time in America: "I feel so at home in my little Ann Arbor that I'm beginning to sink down roots here and have a hard time imagining my leaving it. . . . Every now and then I feel strange when I think about how tiny my own country is and how large and wonderful America is."

(4) Raoul returned to Sweden, where he began a career as a businessman, and afterwards, a Swedish diplomat.

(5) In 1936, Raoul's grandfather arranged a position for him at the Holland Bank in Haifa, Palestine. There Raoul began to meet young Jews who had already been forced to flee from Nazi persecution in Germany. Their stories affected him deeply.

(6) He was greatly troubled by the fate of Jews in Europe, confiding to actress Viveca Lindfors the horrific plight of Jews under Nazi Europe.

(7) Under the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the War Refugee Board was established in January 1944 to aid civilians that fell victim to the Nazi and Axis powers in Europe.

(8) One of War Refugee Board's top priorities was protection of the 750,000 Hungarian Jews still alive.

(9) It was decided that Raoul Wallenberg, aged 31 at the time, would be most effective in protecting Jews and victims of the Nazis in Hungary under the War Refugee Board. He was recruited by Iver Olsen, an agent for the Office of Strategic Services and sent to Budapest, Hungary, under his official profession as a Swedish diplomat. He was instructed to use passports and other creative means to save as many lives as possible.

(10) Wallenberg created a new Swedish passport, the Schutzpass, which looked more imposing and official than the actual Swedish passport. He reportedly put up huge place cards of it throughout Budapest to make the Nazis familiar with it. He unilaterally announced that it granted the holder immunity from the death camps. The Schutzpasses alone are credited with saving 20,000 Jewish lives.

(11) In one example of his heroism, Wallenberg was told of a Nazi plot to round up several thousand Jewish women and acted swiftly to save them. Former Wallenberg staffer, Agnes Adachi, recalls the time when she and other staff, spent the whole night